



LORI GLASGOW
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 383
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
(213) 974-1411 • FAX (213) 620-0636

May 25, 2016

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

SHEILA KUEHL

DON KNABE

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

The Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell, Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Burwell:

We are writing to request that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) consider implementing a narrowly-crafted, targeted Medicaid waiver, as recently proposed by the National Association of Counties (NACo), for Medicaid-eligible individuals held in our jail. The vast majority of these individuals are being held pending disposition of their charges.

We applaud the recent guidance released by CMS which clarifies those key areas where Medicaid can be used for justice-involved individuals within community settings. It is a much-needed step that acknowledges the crucial role that adequate, community-based health and mental health coverage and services play in reducing recidivism and improving public safety.

Los Angeles County operates the largest jail system and the second largest public health system in the nation. In the past few years, our Board has demonstrated its commitment to implementing local criminal justice reforms, including by investing in improved health and mental health services for incarcerated individuals and countywide diversion and re-entry programs. As such, we would like to express our support of CMS' exploration into the potential next big step, allowing individuals who are detained pre-trial to receive, or continue receiving, Medicaid.

Pre-trial individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty but often remain in jail because they cannot afford to post bail. If they could post bail, they would enjoy the full benefits of programs like Medicaid in the community. Our experience has demonstrated that these individuals, generally released soon after trial, cycle through our criminal justice and public health systems without establishing continuity health and mental health care. For many vulnerable, low-income individuals, continuity of health care services allows them to successfully thrive in their communities.

Providing health care coverage to Medicaid-eligible individuals, detained but who have not been convicted of a crime, would allow counties to provide coordinated, uninterrupted medical, behavioral, and substance use disorder treatment services during this pre-trial

The Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell
May 25, 2016
Page 2


period. Furthermore, providing health care coverage during the pre-trial period would allow systems to more effectively link patients to the community continuum of care post-incarceration so they can stabilize health and mental health conditions that ultimately help reduce their likelihood of recidivating. We believe that this is a vital component to breaking a cycle that is costly not only to those individuals and their communities, but to the larger Federal, State, and local health and criminal justice systems.

We hope the County of Los Angeles can be a resource to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and CMS in its consideration of this demonstration waiver proposal that we believe could reduce health disparities and improve outcomes for this most vulnerable population.


We appreciate your consideration and thank you for the discussions HHS and CMS have had so far with NACo, Los Angeles County, and other counties on these important matters.

Sincerely,


HILDA L. SOLIS
Chair of the Board
Supervisor, First District


MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Supervisor, Second District


SHEILA KUEHL
Supervisor, Third District


DON KNABE
Supervisor, Fourth District


MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Supervisor, Fifth District

cc: Andy Slavitt, Acting Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Jerry Abramson, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
Jeanne Lambrew, Deputy Assistant to the President for Health Policy



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SHEILA KUEHL

DON KNABE

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

The Honorable Karen Bass
U.S. House of Representatives
408 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Bass:

We are writing to request your support for our request to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) consider implementing a narrowly-crafted, targeted Medicaid waiver, as recently proposed by the National Association of Counties (NACo), for Medicaid-eligible individuals held in our jail. The vast majority of these individuals are being held pending disposition of their charges.

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We hope the County of Los Angeles can be a resource to the Department of Health and Human Services and CMS in its consideration of this demonstration waiver proposal. We hope you will join us in supporting this request, which we believe could reduce health disparities and improve outcomes for this most vulnerable population.

We appreciate your consideration of this important matter.

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Supervisor, First District



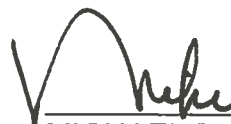
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DON KNABE

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
U.S. House of Representatives
1226 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Becerra:

We are writing to request your support for our request to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) consider implementing a narrowly-crafted, targeted Medicaid waiver, as recently proposed by the National Association of Counties (NACo), for Medicaid-eligible individuals held in our jail. The vast majority of these individuals are being held pending disposition of their charges.

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The Honorable Xavier Becerra
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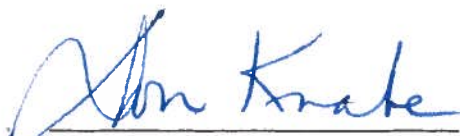
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DON KNABE

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
SH-112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Boxer:

We are writing to request your support for our request to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) consider implementing a narrowly-crafted, targeted Medicaid waiver, as recently proposed by the National Association of Counties (NACo), for Medicaid-eligible individuals held in our jail. The vast majority of these individuals are being held pending disposition of their charges.

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MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

The Honorable Julia Brownley
U.S. House of Representatives
1019 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Brownley:

We are writing to request your support for our request to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) consider implementing a narrowly-crafted, targeted Medicaid waiver, as recently proposed by the National Association of Counties (NACo), for Medicaid-eligible individuals held in our jail. The vast majority of these individuals are being held pending disposition of their charges.

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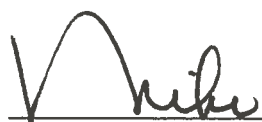
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HILDA L. SOLIS

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

SHEILA KUEHL

DON KNABE

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

The Honorable Tony Cardenas
U.S. House of Representatives
1510 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Cardenas:

We are writing to request your support for our request to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) consider implementing a narrowly-crafted, targeted Medicaid waiver, as recently proposed by the National Association of Counties (NACo), for Medicaid-eligible individuals held in our jail. The vast majority of these individuals are being held pending disposition of their charges.

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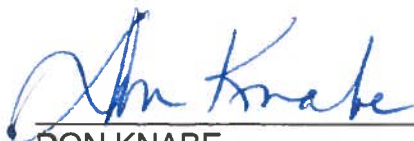
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SHEILA KUEHL

DON KNABE

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

The Honorable Judy Chu
U.S. House of Representatives
2423 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Chu:

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DON KNABE

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
SH-331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

We are writing to request your support for our request to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) consider implementing a narrowly-crafted, targeted Medicaid waiver, as recently proposed by the National Association of Counties (NACo), for Medicaid-eligible individuals held in our jail. The vast majority of these individuals are being held pending disposition of their charges.

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The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
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U.S. House of Representatives
404 Cannon House Office Building
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The Honorable Janice Hahn
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EXECUTIVE OFFICER

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 383
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
(213) 974-1411 • FAX (213) 620-0636

May 25, 2016

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

SHEILA KUEHL

DON KNABE

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

The Honorable Steve Knight
U.S. House of Representatives
1023 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Knight:

We are writing to request your support for our request to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) consider implementing a narrowly-crafted, targeted Medicaid waiver, as recently proposed by the National Association of Counties (NACo), for Medicaid-eligible individuals held in our jail. The vast majority of these individuals are being held pending disposition of their charges.

We applaud the recent guidance released by CMS which clarifies those key areas where Medicaid can be used for justice-involved individuals within community settings. It is a much-needed step that acknowledges the crucial role that adequate, community-based health and mental health coverage and services play in reducing recidivism and improving public safety.

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We hope the County of Los Angeles can be a resource to the Department of Health and Human Services and CMS in its consideration of this demonstration waiver proposal. We hope you will join us in supporting this request, which we believe could reduce health disparities and improve outcomes for this most vulnerable population.


We appreciate your consideration of this important matter.

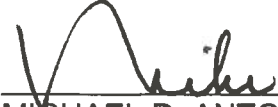
Sincerely,


HILDA L. SOLIS
Chair of the Board
Supervisor, First District


MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Supervisor, Second District


SHEILA KUEHL
Supervisor, Third District


DON KNABE
Supervisor, Fourth District


MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Supervisor, Fifth District



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EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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May 25, 2016

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HILDA L. SOLIS

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

SHEILA KUEHL

DON KNABE

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

The Honorable Ted Lieu
U.S. House of Representatives
415 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Lieu:

We are writing to request your support for our request to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) consider implementing a narrowly-crafted, targeted Medicaid waiver, as recently proposed by the National Association of Counties (NACo), for Medicaid-eligible individuals held in our jail. The vast majority of these individuals are being held pending disposition of their charges.

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The Honorable Ted Lieu
May 25, 2016
Page 2


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We appreciate your consideration of this important matter.

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MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

LORI GLASGOW
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

May 25, 2016

The Honorable Alan Lowenthal
U.S. House of Representatives
108 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Lowenthal:

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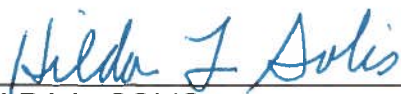
The Honorable Alan Lowenthal
May 25, 2016
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DON KNABE

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

LORI GLASGOW
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

May 25, 2016

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
U.S. House of Representatives
2421 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader McCarthy:

We are writing to request your support for our request to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) consider implementing a narrowly-crafted, targeted Medicaid waiver, as recently proposed by the National Association of Counties (NACo), for Medicaid-eligible individuals held in our jail. The vast majority of these individuals are being held pending disposition of their charges.

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The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
May 25, 2016
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May 25, 2016

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MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

SHEILA KUEHL

DON KNABE

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

The Honorable Grace F. Napolitano
U.S. House of Representatives
1610 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Napolitano:

We are writing to request your support for our request to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) consider implementing a narrowly-crafted, targeted Medicaid waiver, as recently proposed by the National Association of Counties (NACo), for Medicaid-eligible individuals held in our jail. The vast majority of these individuals are being held pending disposition of their charges.

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May 25, 2016

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

SHEILA KUEHL

DON KNABE

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
U.S. House of Representatives
2330 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Roybal-Allard:

We are writing to request your support for our request to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) consider implementing a narrowly-crafted, targeted Medicaid waiver, as recently proposed by the National Association of Counties (NACo), for Medicaid-eligible individuals held in our jail. The vast majority of these individuals are being held pending disposition of their charges.

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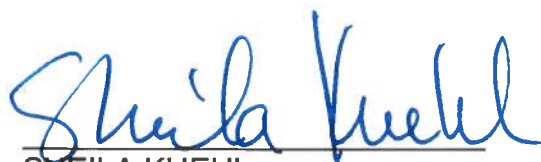
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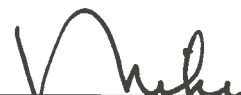
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Supervisor, Fifth District



LORI GLASGOW
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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May 25, 2016

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

SHEILA KUEHL

DON KNABE

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

The Honorable Ed Royce
U.S. House of Representatives
2310 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Royce:

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May 25, 2016

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SHEILA KUEHL

DON KNABE

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

The Honorable Linda Sánchez
U.S. House of Representatives
2329 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Sánchez:

We are writing to request your support for our request to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) consider implementing a narrowly-crafted, targeted Medicaid waiver, as recently proposed by the National Association of Counties (NACo), for Medicaid-eligible individuals held in our jail. The vast majority of these individuals are being held pending disposition of their charges.

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DON KNABE

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The Honorable Adam Schiff
U.S. House of Representatives
2411 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Schiff:

We are writing to request your support for our request to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) consider implementing a narrowly-crafted, targeted Medicaid waiver, as recently proposed by the National Association of Counties (NACo), for Medicaid-eligible individuals held in our jail. The vast majority of these individuals are being held pending disposition of their charges.

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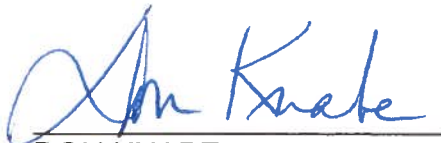
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Supervisor, Fourth District



MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Supervisor, Fifth District



LORI GLASGOW
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 383
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
(213) 974-1411 • FAX (213) 620-0636

May 25, 2016

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

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MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

SHEILA KUEHL

DON KNABE

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

The Honorable Brad Sherman
U.S. House of Representatives
2242 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Sherman:

We are writing to request your support for our request to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) consider implementing a narrowly-crafted, targeted Medicaid waiver, as recently proposed by the National Association of Counties (NACo), for Medicaid-eligible individuals held in our jail. The vast majority of these individuals are being held pending disposition of their charges.

We applaud the recent guidance released by CMS which clarifies those key areas where Medicaid can be used for justice-involved individuals within community settings. It is a much-needed step that acknowledges the crucial role that adequate, community-based health and mental health coverage and services play in reducing recidivism and improving public safety.

Los Angeles County operates the largest jail system and the second largest public health system in the nation. In the past few years, our Board has demonstrated its commitment to implementing local criminal justice reforms, including by investing in improved health and mental health services for incarcerated individuals and countywide diversion and re-entry programs. As such, we would like to support CMS' exploration into the potential next big step, allowing individuals who are detained pre-trial to receive, or continue receiving, Medicaid.

Pre-trial individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty but often remain in jail because they cannot afford to post bail. If they could post bail, they would enjoy the full benefits of programs like Medicaid in the community. Our experience has demonstrated that these individuals, generally released soon after trial, cycle through our criminal justice and public health systems without establishing continuity health and mental health care. For many vulnerable, low-income individuals, continuity of health care services allows them to successfully thrive in their communities.


The Honorable Brad Sherman
May 25, 2016
Page 2


Providing health care coverage to Medicaid-eligible individuals, detained but who have not been convicted of a crime, would allow counties to provide coordinated uninterrupted medical, behavioral, and substance use disorder treatment services during this pre-trial period. Furthermore, providing health care coverage during the pre-trial period would allow systems to more effectively link patients to the community continuum of care post-incarceration so they can stabilize health and mental health conditions that ultimately help reduce their likelihood of recidivating. We believe that this is a vital component to breaking a cycle that is costly not only to those individuals and their communities, but to the larger Federal, State, and local health and criminal justice systems.


We hope the County of Los Angeles can be a resource to the Department of Health and Human Services and CMS in its consideration of this demonstration waiver proposal. We hope you will join us in supporting this request, which we believe could reduce health disparities and improve outcomes for this most vulnerable population.


We appreciate your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,


HILDA L. SOLIS
Chair of the Board
Supervisor, First District


MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Supervisor, Second District


DON KNABE
Supervisor, Fourth District


SHEILA KUEHL
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LORI GLASGOW
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

May 25, 2016

The Honorable Norma Torres
U.S. House of Representatives
516 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Torres:

We are writing to request your support for our request to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) consider implementing a narrowly-crafted, targeted Medicaid waiver, as recently proposed by the National Association of Counties (NACo), for Medicaid-eligible individuals held in our jail. The vast majority of these individuals are being held pending disposition of their charges.

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The Honorable Norma Torres
May 25, 2016
Page 2


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HILDA L. SOLIS

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

SHEILA KUEHL

DON KNABE

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

The Honorable Maxine Waters
U.S. House of Representatives
2221 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Waters:

We are writing to request your support for our request to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) consider implementing a narrowly-crafted, targeted Medicaid waiver, as recently proposed by the National Association of Counties (NACo), for Medicaid-eligible individuals held in our jail. The vast majority of these individuals are being held pending disposition of their charges.

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